

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 10 with the following revised paragraph:

-- Referring now to FIGS. 9-13, various views are shown of the trailer hitch storage apparatus 50 in its collapsed and extended positions, demonstrating the movement of the pivoting center post 21 and pivoting receiving brackets 20a, 20b. Behind the base plate 22 is a biased, semi-flexible retention member 65, which is preferably in the form of a leaf spring, secured to the rear of the base plate 22. The retention member 65 is fixedly secured to the base plate 22 at a central region 66 while its ends 67, 68 are unrestrained. The biased arrangement allows the retention member 65 to provide sufficient retention forces on the receiving brackets 20a, 20b both in the collapsed and extended positions. As best shown in FIG. 9, when the receiving brackets 20a and 20b are in their extended positions, the pivot arms 59 of the receiving brackets 20a, 20b are held in place by the retention member 65. As shown in FIG. 11, when the receiving brackets 20a, 20b are in their collapsed position, the ends 67, 68 of the retention member 65 press the pivot arms 59 against the interior of the side walls 53, 54_{53a}, 53b thereby retaining the receiving brackets 20a, 20b in their collapsed position. --